

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-32. Cancelled

33. (New) A method for execution in a policy management system, comprising:

dynamically introducing a new attribute into a policy for the policy-managed system, without requiring a change to a policy manager, by executing steps that comprise operating at least one sensor coupled to the policy-managed system to dynamically discover a value of at least one existing metric;

associating a new attribute with the discovered value of the at least one existing metric;

incorporating the new attribute into a policy; and

storing the policy for future use,

where operating further comprises determining if the new attribute is directly measurable by the at least one sensor, and if it is not, determining if a definition of the attribute currently exists and if it does, determining from the attribute definition the identity of at least one metric having a value required to determine the attribute value, obtaining the value of the at least one required metric from a corresponding one of the sensors, and determining the value of the attribute from the obtained at least one metric value, where the attribute definition comprises at least one of a formula specified by a user and a method that determines the value of the new attribute from existing information, and where the new attribute is one of a directly discoverable entity or an entity that is not directly discoverable.